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By:

Martin A. Miller

Date: Oct 3, 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Rolf Brück et al.

Applic. No. : 09/450,399

Filed : November 29, 1999

Title : Muffler and Associated Assembly Having a Catalyst Carrier Body and Retaining Element and Method for Producing the Assembly

Examiner : Hien Tran

Group Art Unit : 1764

R E S P O N S E

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir :

Responsive to the Office Action dated September 3, 2002, the following remarks are made:

In deference to the restriction requirement on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, Applicants elect group I for prosecution at this time.

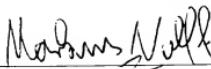
Applicants request a rejoinder under MPEP §821.04 for the non-elected method claims of group II at an appropriate later

date. Applicants will consider in due time whether or not to file a divisional for any non-elected group.

The following claims read on elected group I : claims 1-11.

In view of the foregoing, the early issuance of an Action on the merits, and the allowance of the claims are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants
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